

**Washington** - Today the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition recognized newly elected Ohio Representative Charlie Wilson for his commitment to America's service men and women by naming him "Blue Dog of the Week." Recently, due in part to Rep. Wilson's leadership, the House of Representatives passed "The Dignity for Wounded Warriors Act of 2007."

**"Through his efforts in ushering this important piece of legislation through the House, Rep. Wilson has demonstrated that he is willing to work in a bipartisan fashion to ensure the health and safety of our soldiers and their families,"** said Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR), Blue Dog Co-Chair for Communications.

**"As members of the Blue Dog Coalition we believe strongly that the government must be accountable to the people, particularly those who have paid the ultimate price to protect our freedom. Due to the efforts of Rep. Wilson, the Congress is taking the necessary steps to ensure that the government is living up to this responsibility."**

**"As a member of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, I am actively engaged in pushing for a more responsible and accountable government. The "Dignity For Wounded Warriors Act" achieves this goal in important ways. It provides real oversight, makes sure taxpayers' hard-earned money is used effectively, and guarantees our veterans get the care they need and deserve,"** said Rep. Wilson.

Rep. Wilson and his Blue Dog colleagues also recently introduced H.Res.97, "Providing for Operation Iraqi Freedom Cost Accountability." The resolution focuses on four crucial points including: calling for more transparency on how Iraq war funds are spent; creating a Truman Commission to investigate the awarding of contracts to look into reports of war profiteering; calling for future funding of the Iraq war to be done through the normal appropriations process and not through hiding the costs of the war in so- called "emergency" supplementals; and, demanding greater responsibility of the Iraqis for their own security and internal policing operations.

*The conservative Blue Dog Coalition was formed in 1995 with the goal of representing the center of the House of Representatives and appealing to the mainstream values of the American public. The Blue Dogs are dedicated to a core set of beliefs that transcend partisan politics, including a deep commitment to the financial stability and national security of the United States. Currently there are 43 members of the Blue Dog Coalition.*

Rep. Wilson is currently featured on the Blue Dog Coalition website, located at <http://www.house.gov/ross/BlueDogs/>

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